

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 291045
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 291045

FOL RPT PRETORIA 6598 ACTION SECSTATE INFO BONN DAR ES SALAAM
GABORONE LONDON LUSAKA MAPUTO OTTAWA PARIS USUN NY 4 DEC 77 QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 6598

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SF, WA, PINT, PINS
SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: SECURITY POLICE DETAIN SWAPO LEADERS

1. IN RESPONSE TO OUR QUERIES ON RUMORS OF ARRESTS IN
NAMIBIA OF SWAPO (INTERNAL) OFFICIALS, DFA GAVE US THE
FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

ON DEC 3, ELEVEN SWAPO (INTERNAL) OFFICIALS WERE ARRESTED
IN OVAMBO BY THE SECURITY POLICE UNDER AG PROCLAMATION 9
(WHICH REPLACED R17--PRETORIA 6116, 6053). THOSE ARRESTED
INCLUDED: DAN TJONGARERO (SWAPO INFORMATION SECRETARY);
TAUNO HATUKİLIPİ (SWAPO TREASURER); MARTHA FORD (SWAPO
NAMIBIAN WOMEN'S COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE ON THE SWAPO EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE); JUSTIN ELLIS (SECRETARY OF THE CHRISTIAN
CENTER); A MISS HAMUTENJA; AND A MR. BERNADUS.

2. DFA TOLD US THAT THEY HAD TALKED TO JOHN VIALL,
ASSISTANT TO THE AG IN WONDHOEK, WHO SAID HE HAD HEARD
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THE NEWS ON THE RADIO AND CONTACTED THE POLICE. THE
POLICE EXPLAINED THAT THEY HAD CALLED IN ONE OF THE SWAPO
FIGURES IN CONNECTION WITH A DOCUMENT, WHICH WAS PRESUMED
TO BE ILLEGAL. SUBSEQUENTLY THEY HAD ARRESTED THE OTHER
SWAPO OFFICIALS INCLUDING TJONGARERO. VIALL SAID HE
TOLD THE POLICE THIS EXPLANATION WAS UNSATISFACTORY AND HE HAD
URGED THEM TO MAKE PUBLIC THE BASIS FOR THEIR ACTION. VIALL

SAID THE AG WAS CONCERNED ABOUT THE POLICE ACTION AND AWARE OF THE POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS.

3. ACCORDING TO PRESS SOURCES IN WIKDHOEK, TJONGARERO AND SOME OR ALL OF THOSE ARRESTED HAD GONE TO OVAMBO TO ATTEND AN ECONOMIC SEMINAR AND OTHER MEETINGS ARRANGED BY THE CHRISTIAN CENTER (A MULTI-DENOMINATIONAL NAMIBIAN CHRISTIAN SERVICE ORGANIZATION).

4. IN A SUBSEQUENT CALL TO US THIS EVENING, DEC 4, DFA SAID THAT FOUR OF THOSE ARRESTED HAD BEEN RELEASED AND SIX OTHER INCLUDING TJONGARERO, WOULD BE FREED TOMORROW. BERNADUS WOULD NOT BE FREED TOMORROW. DFA SAID THEY HAD BEEN ARRESTED ON SUSPICION OF CONTACT WITH TERRORISTS. DFA EMPHASIZED THAT THE POLICE HAD ACTED ON THEIR OWN AND NOT UNDER THE ORDERS OF THE AG; THE AG HAD NO PRIOR KNOWLEDGE OF THE ARRESTS. DFA REITERATED THAT THE AG WAS FULLY AWARE OF THE POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES.

5. WINDHOEK JOURNALISTS CLIVE COWLEY AND KURT DAHLMAN SPECULATED PRIVATELY THAT THE SECURITY POLICE AND OTHERS UNHAPPY WITH THE ABROGATION OF R17 HAD ACTED TO EMBARRASS THE AG.
BOWDLER

UNQUOTE VANCE
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Sent Date: 07-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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